[Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai.]

the Judges must be appointed fairly early in life; so that at least fifteen years' pensionable service may be put in. That was why they fixed forty as the age-limit for recruitment as Judges. But, in the case of the Sirkar Vakils, it was thought that, since they were pensionable Government servants already, they could get a decent pension even if they did not have fifteen years' service as *Judges*, provided that they became Sirkar Vakils within the age limit. That was why the age rule was modified in the case of Sirkar Vakils being appointed as Judges.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is the member aware that the Law's Delays Commissioner has not recommended any age limit for the appointment of Second Judges?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I cannot say, but I am prepared to accept the member's statement.

Sir, I must now conclude.

As I stated at the outset, every point raised will be considered by the Government.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI: മാവേലിക്കരക്കോടതിയിൽ നിന്നും ഒരു പ്രതിയെ ജയിലിൽ അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I have no information: but the member himself stated that the matter was brought to the notice of the High Court.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI: അതിനെപ്പറ്റി യാതൊരു തീർച്ചയും ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല എന്നു കേൾക്കുന്നു.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I have no information.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: I thank the Law Member for the announcement about the establishment of courts, and I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I put to the vote of the House Demand XII—Administration of Justice—for Rs. 10,49,355.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—EXCLUDING ACCOUNT OFFICE AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,39,509, under Demand XIII General Administration, excluding Account Office and Legislative Bodies.

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MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: I move for omission of the total allotment of Rs. 2,39,509, under Demand XIII, in order to draw the attention of Government to two or three salient facts. It may not be in order for me to refer to the constitution of this House. But, I may be permitted to request Government that, hereafter at least, the authorities concerned must be more liberal in advising His Highness the Maha Raja for granting constitutional reforms to us. The sufferage could have been broadened; and this time at least we could have been given an elected President. I am not going to deal at length this question. I only want to impress upon Government that the reform is not even as advanced as the old anti-deluvian Minto-Morley Reforms. I request Government to see that the next instalment at least is really more democratic and more popular.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is the member now speaking on Demand No. XIII?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Yes, I am talking about General Administration.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: But, there is a separate Demand for the Legislative Department.

MR KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: In fact, I do not see any very great distinction between these three demands. Anything coming under anyone of them comes under the others also.

The next point that I wish to draw the attention of Government is to the necessity for a Legislative Chamber, especially now. I cannot hope to get a better occasion than now to impress upon the Government the very bad accoustic properties of this Hall, now that it is raining, and we are not able to hear even the little that we used to hear ordinarily. It is an old promise of Government; and we request that Government will soon make provision for a Council Hall with a suitable library, Committee rooms, retiring rooms, etc., attached to it.

The third point to which I want to draw the attention of Government is this. I am afraid that we are now having communal representation at the wrong end. I understand that Government carry communal preferences even in the matter of promotions among permanent Government servants. That is fraught with mischievous consequences; because, it is sure to create discontent in services and tend to inefficiency. It is highly necessary that we must have contented services. As it is, nobody is sure as to how many people may supersede them in service. I therefore most earnestly request Government that, hereafter at least, the principle of communal representation is followed, if at all, only in the matter of initial recruitment.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that communal claims are now being considered in the matter of promotions?

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Yes.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: In which department, please?

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MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Instances are many; the Civil List will give us any number of instances. There is the case of Mr. C. O. Madhavan, for instance.

Another instance is that of an Assistant Excise Commissioner, a Mussalman gentleman, whose name I forget. I have absolutely no allegations to make against these officers. On the other hand the Government have been very lucky in being able to get hold of these officers with great ability. But on a matter of principle I should say that they should not have been promoted over the heads of others in the department. Personally and individually I like them. I do not want to be misunderstood because I speak on a principle which is unexceptional. With these few words, I move the total omission of this demand.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: In supporting the motion, I thank you, Sir, for advising His Highness the Maha Raja for granting freedom of speech to the Legislature. But I regret that the freedom of press is not granted by repealing the Newspapers Regulation. You, Sir, come from a nation of freemen and from a place where freedom of speech and of the press is exercised freely. We are really proud, Sir, to say that freedom of speech and freedom of press were enjoyed by us also till the Regency period. But unfortunately it was thought that during the period of Regency some protection was found necessary so far as the press was concerned for reasons better known to themselves. I beg to point out, Sir, that during the reign of the late Highness Sri Mulam Thirunal for the suppression of a newspaper it was thought even to deport a son of the soil better than suppressing the general press by any Regulation. Here by suppression of the press by means of a Regulation we are handicapped in not being able to express our right through the press. I earnestly request you, Sir, to advise His Highness the Maha Raja who is coming after a tour in Europe and after breathing the free air of freedom in Europe that freedom of the press be given to us.

The next point that I would beg to bring to your notice is the formation of a ministry in Travancore. Sir, I have pointed out the dangerous situation of the Government in having no expert to advise them in financial matters. The Head of the Administration has the absolute control over the financial matters. This is a right not exercised even by the Viceroy of India or the Governors of Provinces. Here the Head of the Administration has absolute control over the finances of the State. The Financial Secretary is only a creature in the hands of the Dewan. Sir, in olden days it was not so. It is a story known to the whole of Travancore that when Dewan Rama Aiyangar wanted to reform the Police and wanted more money, Valiamelazhuthu Pillai who was in charge of the finances refused to give even a single pie for the reform and when it was insisted upon by the Dewan, he even tendered his resignation before His Highness saying that no provision was found for the expenditure and Dewan Rama Aiyangar had to bow his head before him.

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MR. K. GEORGE: Does the member think that the reforms should be held up if the Financial Secretary stands against them?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I am not saying that. Without consulting the Financial Secretary and without knowing the financial condition of the State no reforms should be taken up and no control should be exercised over the finances by the Head of the Administration. I shall point out to you, Sir, the way in which our finances are handled on the sole responsibility of the Dewan. There have been large disbursements of money to a few contractors against the opinion of the head of the Public Works Department. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was given to a contractor for the construction of a bridge constructed by him on his own responsibility for his own benefit, and not to the public and, not at the orders of Government. He constructed a bridge at Kanjirapalli on his own responsibility and never thought of any remuneration from Government. Only afterwards did he apply for the cost and the cost was ordered to be given to him by the Head of the Administration and another disbursement of Rs. 50,000 was made to another contractor in the High Range for opening a road in his own Estate on his own responsibility without the knowledge of the Chief Engineer. I understand the payment was made against the opinion recorded by P. W. D. officers. These are stories quite novel in the history of the Travancore finances.

I beg to point out further that there are expert financiers in the service itself. I beg to point out that in the near future a ministry composed of experts and experienced men be formed for the better administration of the State. Excuse me, Sir, when I say that we are really tired, nay we have become sick, by one man's rule in Travancore, especially a foreigner, whether an Indian or a European. We are really grateful for all the benefits that we have derived from foreign administrators.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know from the member whether he is not of the opinion that justice and fair play can be meted out only by such impartial outsiders?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: We are really grateful Sir, for all the benefits done by the foreign administrators, like Raja Sir T. Madhava Row, Seshia Sastry, Rama Aiyangar, V. P. Madhava Row and others. But at the same time we, the sons of the soil, are made to feel for generations to come by the omissions and commissions of such administrations. The agreement entered into with the British Government in the matter of the Periyar Lease, the Cochin Harbour Scheme, the Interportal Trade Convention; the opening of the Shencottah-Quilon Railway, the K. D. H. P. Concession, the opening, then closing, again re-opening and then finally abandoning the Shertallai canal after meeting a huge expenditure, and also the agreement entered into with the South Indian Railway Company in the matter of the Trivandrum extension are but few administrative blunders committed

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[Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi.]

by foreign administrators. I beg to point out, Sir, that Dewans coming from outside Travancore formulate policies which are not suitable to the State. The seeds of policies sown by foreign Dewans in the Travancore soil have failed even without germination. New Dewans coming from outside without local experience are ordinarily guided by the Officers of the Secretariat, and, chiefly, by the chief of them and they are likely to fall into the groove of such officers. I beg to point out to you, Sir, that the policy adopted by the Government in the matter of appointments is not appreciated by the public. There is no wholesome policy followed by Government now. The wholesome policy of accepting the recommendations of the High Court and of accepting the recommendations of heads of departments are not followed in recent years. In the matter of the appointments of Mr. Joseph as second Judge in preference to Mr. C. S. Lakshmanan Pillai the Government vetoed the recommendation on the ground of seniority in service, and the Government have said that in the matter of appointment of Second Judges the communal question does not arise. But it was only a few months ago that Mr. Satyanesan was appointed as Second Judge merely on the communal ground, I also beg to point out other instances in the drafting of one Mr. Thomas from the Public Works Department as a Tahsildar and another Mr. George Mathew from the Huzur Secretariat without even consulting the Land Revenue Commissioner. The practice of taking Tahsildars without magisterial experience is also an instance formulated by the Government recently. In this connection, I beg to bring out another point also. Our best officers in the State are kept for a very long time in the lower service, and promotions are given at the fag end of their service by appointing them as executive officers. We have for executive work officers as Dewan Peishkars and District Superintendents, etc., men who are above 53 or 54 years of age. That is not the practice in British India. There they get energetic I. C. S. officers when they are young, energetic and the people have the benefit of executive work. But here the district officers are men above 53 years of age, and they are appointed as such when they are unable to move except in motor cars and we get no benefits from their executive work.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Is the member aware that there is considerable opinion in British India against the appointment of raw boys as executive officers?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: I never advocate the appointment of raw boys. I only say that after some experience and after testing them for their honesty, intergrity and capacity, officers should be promoted at an early date as executive officers.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Is the member in favour of appointing distinguished graduates of the University direct as Division Assistants?

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MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: It can be done. Messrs. P. Thanu Pillai, V. I. Kesava Pillai, A. Govinda Pillai, V. Nagamiah and so many others were appointed even at the age of 35 and 40 as executive officers and we had the benefit of their executive work when they were very young. But now we get officers when they are old. I beg to point out that when the Government are convinced of the capacity of officers they should be given speedy promotions.

A word about the Secretariat. The status of the Secretaries and the Assistant Secretaries should be raised to that of Dewan Peishkars and the Assistant Dewan Peishkars and the offices of the Secretaries and the Dewan Peishkars be made inter-changeable once in three years; and also the status of the Chief Secretary should be made equal to that of the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Financial Secretary and their offices should be made interchangeable once in three years. I beg to submit, Sir, that on no account should the Chief Secretary be allowed to continue in office as such for more than three years. With these observations I support the motion before the House.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I also oppose the demand, and I do so with a view to discuss the general policy followed by Government in the matter of appointments and promotions. There are not very many Native States in the whole of India, like ours, where so many young men of ability and educational qualifications find themselves shut out from participation in Government service. At present we find that very many of the high and covetable places in the public service of the State are filled with Europeans and foreigners. This policy of importing foreigners in preference to local talents has caused great heart-burning and discontent among the people. The question to us, Sir, is a question of the country's prestige and self-respect and we feel that our future growth is bound up with a proper solution of it. The importation of foreigners or outsiders into Travancore, I need hardly tell the House, is also a great drain upon our revenues.

Another point on which I wish to address the House is about the policy of communal representation in Public Service. Now that the Public Service Recruitment Committee has not closed its labours, I think it will not be out of place to offer a few suggestions on this question for their anxious and earnest consideration. I do not propose to give my views about the soundness or otherwise of this policy of communal representation, but all that I wish to say is that this cry of communal representation has originated from and is being fostered by officers and place hunters for advancing their own interests. Among the people who earn their livelihood by means other than Government service there are no communal bickerings or caste animosities

Now that Government have accepted communal representation as their creed in the matter of appointments and promotions, all that I wish to say is that this principle should not be carried to any undesirable extent as to sacrifice efficiency of service. In my view also, Sir, fair and adequate representation of the unrepresented communities

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[Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

does not necessarily mean, as Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi observed, that members of those communities should be elevated or placed all on a sudden over the heads of the members of other communities who are already in service.

It should be admitted by all right-thinking people that the elevation of any one community should not be by actively retarding the progress of another community. But, unfortunately, this is what the Government have been doing in very many cases in the name of communal representation.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is not the member aware that the agitation for communal representation in the public service has taken its lead from the time of the old Malayalee Memorial?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I was not even born then; so I cannot answer the question put by the member.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Has he not heard of this?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I heard of it now from my friend Mr. Sankaran.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Not before?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: No.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Is the member of the view that the promotions that have been given were given avowedly on the principle of communal representation?

MR. M N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sometimes they are done so and Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi has been able to cite some instances.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Was it stated by Government that it was done on the principle of communal representation?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It is patent from the action of Government that it is done on that basis.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I ask the member whether he endorses the view of the member who advocated the representation in the Medical Department of no communities other than the Christian community?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I never advocated that, nor do I endorse that member's views.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Was my friend listening to that argument?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: But that does not mean that I endorsed all the views expressed in this House.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I ask the member whether he advocates communal representation in the case of teachers in private schools?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Personally, I do not advocate that.

No doubt, Sir, in the matter of first appointments preference may be shown for some years more to the duly qualified members of the

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unrepresented communities, but when once the appointment is over these men should not be allowed to ask for reserved seats and other undue preferences at the hands of Government.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ളിക് സർവീസിൽ കമ്മ്യൂണൽ റെപ്രസെന്റേഷൻ എന്ന വാദം ഉണ്ടാകാനുള്ള കാരണം എന്തെന്ന് അറിയാമോ?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനു വേണ്ടി ഓടി നടക്കുന്നവരും ഉണ്ടാക്കിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു വഴക്കാണ് ഇതു എന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു കഴിഞ്ഞു.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: ജനസമുദായത്തിനിടയിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള വിചാരം ഇല്ലെ?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിലും ഈ വിഷം കടന്നു കൂടിയിട്ടുണ്ടു.

MR. C. M. JOSEPH: അതിനു ഒരു പരിഹാരം കണ്ടു പിടിക്കേണ്ടതു ആവശ്യമില്ലെ?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: അത്യാവശ്യം തന്നെ.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know from the member whether appointments to the public service .....

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I shall answer all these questions at the end of my speech. I may be permitted to proceed because the time allotted for me is very short.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: My friend has been alluding to controversial points. I think I am at liberty to put a question and I am entitled to get an answer.

PRESIDENT: You cannot force a member to answer.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Coming to our public service, we find it is too costly for our revenues. It has been a long standing complaint that our administration is top heavy. Any one who has the patience to skip over the pages of our voluminous Civil List will be impressed with the idea that there are several departments which are over-manned and that the salaries of many of our officers are too big for the posts.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Should the pay of the High Court Judges be raised?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I do not advocate that.

Take, for instance, the Land Revenue Department. It has been repeatedly urged before the attention of Government that there is no necessity to keep such a high salaried officer as the Dewan Peishkar and Commissioner, Devicolam. In the Excise Department also we find so many unnecessary posts. There is a Manager and an Assistant Commissioner in the Office of the Excise Commissioner. These two officers are not necessary. The Excise Department has more controlling officers than preventive and detective officers.

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MR C. M. JOSEPH: എക്സൈക്കോഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ കൂടെ ക്കൂടുതൽ പേർസനൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറന്മാർ ഉണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി അറിയാമോ?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു വരികയാണല്ലോ.

In the Devicolam Division, there is no necessity for a separate Assistant Excise Commissioner. We find that in the Devicolam Division there are only seven arrack shops and no toddy shops. For supervising these why should we want a big officer like the Assistant Excise Commissioner? If the Government are very particular of having the Dewan Peishkar and Commissioner, why not abolish the post of the Assistant Excise Commissioner and make the former the Ex-officio Assistant Excise Commissioner as well.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: In regard to the legislative bodies could not the Upper House be abolished?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: That is a matter of opinion.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Does not the Commissioner guard the frontier?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: He has not much to guard there. We find in the Trivandrum Division also there is an Assistant Excise Commissioner. In Trivandrum there is only collection and auction work and there is not much preventive work as in the frontiers. There is a net-work of motor service and train service connecting Trivandrum with Nagercoil and Quilon. Hence it is possible to amalgamate the Trivandrum Division with the Nagercoil and the Quilon Divisions

Again in north Travancore we find that in former days owing to the laxity of the Customs Rules there was much smuggling particularly in the Piravom and the Arukutty Divisions. But after the passing of the Land Customs Regulation and the introduction of the Go-downs licensing system thereunder, smuggling is well-nigh rendered impossible. Further if Government take care to keep the prices of tobacco in Travancore on a par with the prices of tobacco in Cochin there will be a great discouragement to smuggling.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Is the member aware of many cases of smuggling recently reported?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: There may be a few cases.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI: Has not the Financial Secretary himself reported those cases in his speech?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I believe so.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: If the member's recommendation made previously, *viz.*, that tobacco cultivation may be carried on here, is allowed, then the Assistant Commissioner will have to be retained so that he may inspect the cultivation.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: You cannot cultivate tobacco in every place. The cultivation will have to be confined to

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particular areas in the State and the Assistant Excise Commissioner in whose jurisdiction the cultivation is taken up can supervise the same. There is no necessity for so many Assistant Excise Commissioners.

Coming to the Forest Department we find that the offices of the Personal Assistant and the proposed Warden of Games are unnecessary. The Assistant Superintendents of the Police Department and the two Deputy Darbar Physicians of the Medical Department are also superfluous. There are also branches or departments in the Huzur Secretariat itself, which, I understand, are doing no work. Some of those departments have only to deal with two or three files in a year.

Even in the Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments which are grouped as minor departments we find a good deal of waste. In the Observatory, for instance, there are now two Directors. The department which till 1104 was being controlled efficiently by one Director is now manned by two Directors. Even in the Government of India Observatory at Poona. we have not got such duplication of offices. There is only one officer there to control the department. But we have a separate Director for the meteorological section and another for the astronomical section.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: What is the pay of the officers?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: They are together given allowance of Rs. 1,000 per annum.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: What is it per mensem?

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: The member may kindly work it out himself.

There is also a mechanic in that department who has absolutely no work except to drive the car of one of the Directors and supply batteries to outsiders charged with electricity from the current supplied from the Electrical Department.

In very many other departments also we find a lot of waste. In these days of economic depression when the prices of commodities have fallen by 40 or 50 per cent. it is a sorry feature of our administration that no reduction is made in the salaries of our officers. When the representatives of the people urge for severe retrenchment, what the Government does is rather ridiculous.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: Sir, I wish to add a few words to the discussion that has been going on. In doing so my object is to draw the attention of the House to the difficulties experienced by some communities on account of practical working of the Proclamation relating to places of public worship in Travancore. Sir, this Proclamation was first issued about 1004 as a measure of great toleration by the then Maharani Her Highness Parvati Bai. Subsequently this was amplified by a Proclamation of 1074. This was modified by another Proclamation in 1086. In practice this Proclamation is not being strictly adhered to. For instance, when the petition for the establishment of a

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[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

church or other place of worship has to go to the Tahsildar or a pakuthy officer, a form is given in the Proclamation. Certain information that is absolutely required by the form has to be given. But in the course of the enquiry much more than what is required by the Proclamation is insisted upon by the proverthikar or the Tahsildar. In the second column you find a description of boundaries and survey number which is all that is required. But as a matter of fact when the petitions come for enquiry the pakuthy official or his superior officer goes much more into detail and wants to know whether the occupant has got more than a legal title to possession of the land and whether he is the absolute owner of the land. In other words, he wants to know whether it is a simple lease, a pandarapattom or a kanapattom or karanma land. The officer is not satisfied by the mere statement that the occupant is the owner. The rules do not require such details. My own parish church is held on such a simple lease from a Namputiri. The church has been in existence for 250 years now. Such being the case, I do not see why our officers should go and enquire into these matters, and insist upon knowing whether the petitioner has absolute proprietorship on these lands or whether it is a karanma or pandarapattom. All that is required is undisturbed possession of the land and a legal title. But the officers require absolute proprietorship over the land.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI : ഒരു ഹിന്ദുവിൽ നിന്നും കുറെ സ്ഥലം ഒരു ക്രിസ്ത്യൻ വാങ്ങി അതിൽ ഒരു ദേവാലയം ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ തിരിയെ ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചെടുക്കാൻ എന്തു പ്രയാസമുണ്ടാകും?

MR. K. K. THOMAS : We have to go by the rules and by the Proclamation. All that is wanted is whether the Proclamation requires such enquiry.

Another defect that we find is that the sixth column requires an entry of the name of the place of public worship, which may be situated within half a mile radius. In Travancore christian Churches exist side by side with temples. I know that the Parur Syrian Church exists side by side with a temple. So also in Niranam. I do not know why we should insist upon half a mile distance. Some of these churches came into existence before the Proclamation. I think a radius of half a mile between a place of worship and the proposed church is unnecessary especially in a country like Travancore. All that we require is that there should not be a breach of peace and that there should not be any inconvenience or annoyance to others.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI : I rise to a point of order. Does the question of worship come under the General Administration ?

PRESIDENT : It is in order. It is the Government that passes the orders in these cases.

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MR. K. K. THOMAS: I will also refer to another difficulty with regard to this. When these petitions go to the officers they automatically pass them on to the Devaswom Department just to know whether they have any objection, even after the enquiry by the Tahsildars and Pakuthi officials. There is no necessity for sending the petition to these officials because we have already a list of all the Devaswoms now existing. In my experience, Sir, I have seen several small deities which are not ordinarily frequented but once in a year either on the way to an Aratt or for some other purpose, having no shade or even a building. These places are said to be places of public worship and applications for erection of places of worship for other communities are not granted on the ground that the distance between these and the proposed one is not kept up. An ordinary deity like the Sastha or Kali may have been in existence or some trees or a Kavoo only may be there.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI: കുസ്തീയ ദേവാലയത്തിൽ ഞായറാഴ്ച ദിവസമുള്ള പ്രാർത്ഥനക്ക് നടത്തുന്ന വാദ്യഘോഷം നിമിത്തം അതിനടുത്ത പുരയിടത്തിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഹിന്ദു ദേവാലയത്തിന് അസൗകര്യത ഉണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. K. K. THOMAS: I am not concerned with it.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: കാളിദേവി എന്നു പറയുന്നത് മഹാലക്ഷ്മിയുടെ അവതാരമാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. K. K. THOMAS: But then what are the places of public worship required under these rules?

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know whether the member is aware what the incarnation of Kali is?

MR. K. K. THOMAS: I am not concerned with that. All that I say is that the practice does not conform to the rules. The rules may be worked with more sympathy.

These are the difficulties we experience in the matter of asking permission for erecting places of public worship, I am sure that a reference to the statistics will show that a large number of applications from Christians have been sanctioned with much demur. I see that several applicants have to go through tedious disappointments and have to go from place to place simply because the rules are not worked in the proper spirit of the Proclamation.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: May I ask the member whether the difficulty is not mostly due to the fear that a cemetry will follow when permission is granted to erect a church?

MR. K. K. THOMAS: I am coming to that. Sir, of late there has been a lot of agitation in the country as could be seen from the resolutions that have been sent to Government by many of these organisations. In several cases this matter has not engaged the attention of

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[Mr. K. K. Thomas.]

Government and I fear that all classes of the people do not get that sort of freedom and regard which they are entitled to at the hands of the benign Government. There may be a cemetry but the Proclamation does not prohibit the building of a cemetry or the using the place as a cemetry because it does not come within the ambit of a place of public worship. If it comes under nuisance the law as at present stands will be applied to both parties.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: Apart from the legal impediment, is there not a sentimental objection ?

MR. K. K. THOMAS: That may vary with individual fancies.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Does not the member think that in Travancore we have more churches and mosques than Hindu places of worship, in comparison to population ?

MR. K. K. THOMAS: It may be. But I think every day the temples are also increasing. Ezhavas are erecting up temples in several places.

We had several ancient churches at Kottayam but from 1085 onwards these churches have been closed as per the orders of the Magistrate.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, before entering into very important matters I would like to say a few words on matters of small importance. In the matter of giving holidays in connection with the Onam in Travancore there is a lot of grievance and complaint on the part of the Hindu community. Onam is a celebration common not only to the Hindu community but to all other communities. In olden times we used to have at least 10 days' holidays.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: May I ask the member whether the Onam is not more territorial than communal?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Yes. It is a national celebration so far as Malabar is concerned. Therefore it is that I press for all the communities in Travancore that we must have ten days' holidays. In this matter Government may complain that if more holidays are given, work will suffer. Some members were expressing their opinion that they are aggrieved by reducing the number of holidays for the Judicial Department. I entirely differ from their position. To point out a single instance, just imagine the nature of holiday for Yugadi Pandika. Probably 90 percent. of the population do not know what this holiday is for. Therefore such holidays may be made use of for raising the number of Onam holidays.

Then coming to the Huzur Secretariat, my humble submission is, there is a lot of waste and extravagance in the general administration

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of the country, which Government at present are not in a position to check. Till recently the whole Secretariat and the general administration were controlled by the Chief Secretary with the Dewan at the Head. Recently the Secretariat was re-organised and several Assistant Secretaries' posts were created. The plea put forward in justification of the reform was that for the sake of efficiency they had to do it. Even after the reorganisation of the Secretariat, I still stress the point, that the Secretariat is not working to that point of efficiency which is expected of them. Sir, for the last 6 years very important resolutions were passed in this House affecting the welfare of the country and the people as a whole. But for the two words "under consideration" which could be found in any Dictionary, many Governments including our Government would have been wrecked long ago. If they were not prepared to act upon those resolutions then why should they appoint all these committees and get elaborate reports printed and a lot of money wasted. Whenever questions are asked, Government's reply is that everything is under consideration. But we do not know when the consideration of these matters will come to a final stage. I do not want to enumerate the matters which are before Government. Several of the reports prepared at very heavy costs are being shelved and I do not think they will be brought to light hereafter. Another charge which I would level against the Government is the weakness exhibited by them in diciding matters which come for immediate action. Over this question the Government ought to be strong and wise and they must have a quality to grasp a thing soon and come to decisions immediately. If a Goverment is vascilating over a thing for centuries, that Government cannot but be accused of inactivity and indecision. Government have to decide things within a reasonable time. For example let us look into the matter of making appointments. When two persons put forward equal claims for a particular appointment, Government are found to vascilate. They cannot come to a decision and do justice. Justice is very often forgotten. Efficiency is thrown out and somehow one of the men is preferred, generally the inefficient man. As a corollary to this I may state that when there is an office for which two people are trying Government find it difficult to satisfy both of them. Instead of incurring the displeasure of one of them a duplication of the appointment is invented by which both are made to satisfy. For example, when the Medical Board was abolished, the office of a Deputy Durbar Physician was created. When we adopted a resolution to abolish Dewan Peishkars, the Division Assistants are given the title of Assistant Dewan Peishkars as if it was meant as an insult. When we say that we do not want a thing Government say that they want more of such things.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Do the Government know how to reduce the number of Police Constables?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: I will come to that, but do not distract my attention.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI I came across some passage that seems to be applicable to the policy accepted by Government in the matter of making appointments. Government says –

> "You may pluck roses, but as I notice that you sometimes scratch yourself, I will put you in prison, unless you cut them with scissors at least 122 millimetres long and I will appoint 1000 Inspectors to go round the country to see whether the law is observed. My brother-in-Law shall be at the Head of this department at so many rupees per mensem with powers to appoint his or my relatives."

This seems to be the policy of Government in the matter of appointments. Appointments are created not for the sake of appointments but to oblige persons. Instances are numerous. And I request you, Sir, to carefully go through a number of over-lapping appointments recently made. I want you, Sir, to make a search as to the number of unnecessary appointments created and added during the last 6 years at the cost of the public exchequer. They should be done away with. Just a few moments ago the Law Member was found to raise his voice against the speech made here by an honorable member who stated that the judiciary is rampant with corruption and even challenged the member to cite instances so that action, immediate action, may be taken on the matter. I ask the Chief Secretary as the Head of the general administration, to search among the Secretariat officers and find out those persons who have been declared as incompetent, corrupt and in whom no confidence could be reposed. I ask the question whether such officers are not taken into the Secretariat and promoted over the heads of more deserving people? That is the policy of the Head of the General Administration which controls all the departments of activity in the State. I ask the question what is the meaning when the Law Member raised his voice to "report specific instances and we will take action." Here are specific instances. Do not you find specific instances when you search your own conscience? What have you done? The Tahsildars and Dewan Peishkars are in a position to punish for corruption a subordinate officer. But the subordinate officer says, I have got my Godfather and I will get through the back-door. That is the sort of mentality which is prevailing amongst the officers who control the administration of the country. As a result of this chaos and confusion prevail in every branch of the public administration.

Again, Sir, a thorough lack of discipline is prevailing throughout every department of administration in the country. All sorts of agitations are heard for nothing. Before a particular thing is decided by the head of the department that matter leaks out and that causes agitation in the country.

If the real offenders are brought to book and thus discipline is maintained, I am sure, persons found to ocupy the various branches of the Secretariat would see that information does not leak out. It is the responsible officers who ought to be made responsible for this kind of indisciplined action. But when matters leak out and take a serious

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turn, a peon or a petty clerk at the lower strata of the department is caught hold of and his services are dispensed with. That is the most unjust thing ever to be contemplated. If matters are to be kept confidential, the officer who is responsible for it should keep it so. What is the use, when confidential matters leak out, in punishing a petty clerk or peon that he has divulged the information.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it not a fact that recently one sergeant has been appointed to keep watch over the Huzur Verandahs so that information may not leak out?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May be. Somehow it leaks out and that is the very reason why I am endorsing the views of my friends that there is no other politics in the country excepting the politics of appointment. All the agitation and pressure is due to particular appointments. I do not want to waste my time by dealing with these appointments. Therefore I make a casual reference to these things.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: I wish to say a few words on the subject now before the House. I am unable to agree with Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai in his view that there is corruption rampant in the public service, and that everything is rotten in Travancore. My own impression is that our people are given to exaggerate matters. There may be a little corruption here and there. Our rhetoric recoginses അതിശയോക്തി, hyperbole which is a favourite figure of speech. When we dwell upon anything, we are prone to exaggerate it and speak with too much emphasis, when the circumstances do not call for so much enthusiasm. The fact may be that there will be one inappropriate appointment in a hundred; one act of injustice in two hundred. It is not possible for any Government or human institution to prevent such altogether. I do not want to throw cold water on my friend's representation. I do not say that there are no preventible faults here altogether but there is nothing very alarming in the public service of Travancore so far as my knowledge goes.

As for general administration, I would begin from the top. My idea is that the administration in Travancore is too highly centralized. There was a talk, some years ago, of the appointment of an Executive Council. But nothing is heard of it now. We want an Executive Council in Travancore. The Dewan is saddled with too much work often of a very insignificant character. He may be called the Prime Minister. He may direct the general policy of the various departments and preside over a Council of Ministers or Councillors as the case may be. The work of administering the various departments can be divided between two or three officers with separate portfolios, when the departments may receive better and closer attention and work be done more efficiently. This I think is the view of many members of this House. In this connection, I may point out that we vakils come across very small appeal cases being taken before the Dewan. We have felt, that his precious time could have been employed for the consideration of more serious matters. So, the appointment of an Executive Council is very

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[Mr. M. Govindan.]

essential for Travancore. Some other Indian States are having it. Our administration is sufficiently complex and has grown to such dimensions as to call for the appointment of such a Council. Then some of our men who have reached the higher grades of services, very slowly, and at a late age may prove useful to the State by their experience and may receive at least some belated encouragement. I am in entire agreement with Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi when he said that our men are not getting high promotions which they deserve, because they have to remain in the general revenue line to begin with on Rs. 40 or 45 for a long time and when about to retire rise to some higher pay between Rs. 500 and 600. That is the state of affairs obtaining in the country. Some of our distinguished sons of the soil may be selected by Civil Service examination or otherwise and recruited direct as Assistant Dewan Peishkars. Then they will have chances by promotion to reach the top of the service.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Has the member any objection to select men from the Bar?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: There is no objection. But who is to select is the question. Selection should not be done by the High Court. Government have to make the choice and the Vakils do not come directly under the observation of the Government. It would be better if the selection is made by a Civil Service test, thus giving an opportunity to successful candidates to reach the higher ranks in the superior service.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Then, is there not to be communal representation?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: That must be kept out of consideration because you are taking the most efficient man. Suppose there are two persons, bracketed. Then I would say that one whose community is not well represented in the service may be preferred. But, if one is superior to the other, then the superior candidate must be selected. I may mention that there are certain grades in the service where the principle of communal representation may be respected to a degree. I am surprissed to hear it said that big appointments are made in this State on communal considerations. So far as my knowledge goes, in Travancore, there has been no single instance of that kind. There have been appropriate appointments made from the departments other than those in which vacancies have occurred. That may be due to exigencies of service. For example there is the Anchal Department. The head of that department cannot be chosen from among the Inspectors. Because, there is great disparity both in pay and status between the Inspector and the Superintendent of the Anchal Department. Similarly, in certain other departments also, such considerations may arise. In a department, where the officer in the grade which is next to the head is too low to be promoted as the head, it is not possible to do so from the very same department. So, if appointments are made from de-

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partments other than those in which the vacancy has arisen, it cannot be said that the selection is due to communal representation. We are talking so much of communal representation and thinking so much about it. We are looking at appointments with a jaundiced eye. We are prone to look upon everything in a communal spirit. If the administration is to be carried on efficiency only efficient men are to be selected for promotion. In instances of selection of heads of departments I do not think claims of communal representation are in practice recognised. As for initial recruitments, they can be made in accordance with the importance of unrepresented communities and it has been the declared policy of Government to do so without impairing efficiency. That is all that advocates of communal representation would claim too.

Then in regard to change of ministerial officers, it was said that the Chief Secretary should not remain in office for more than three years. I cannot understand that. My own impression is that in the executive department, a person should not be posted to the same place for more than a certain number of years. In the case of ministerial officers, such as the Registrar of the High Court, Managers, Personal Assistants and Secretaries, consistent with efficiency, they should be retained as long as possible in such offices.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Does the member know that in Madras, Secretaries to Government and Collectors are interchangeable offices?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: That is very necessary in order to gain office experience.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is it not also advisable that the Chief Secretary is appointed from among those who have executive experience?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: It is quite desirable. I quite agree that the Chief Secretary should be one with varied experience.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is the member aware that in olden days only men with executive experience alone were appointed as Chief Secretary?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Yes, generally.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: May I know whether there was an order at the time of Sir P. Rajagopala Chari that only experienced men from the revenue line should be selected as Chief Secretary?

MR. M. GOVINDAN: I am not aware. What I say is, where an officer remains in a ministerial office for a fairly long period and thus gains experience of the working of the various departments, it is always advantageous to continue him in that office, particularly when the head of the administration would be changing every five years or so, so that continuity of policy could be maintained.

With these words, I support the motion.

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MR. K. GEORGE: The debate has dealt with a variety of subjects. I shall deal with some of the important points.

My friend, Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi, spoke about the recent legislative reforms as a sort of anti-deluvian type. I do not think that observation is correct. Reforms have been adopted more or less on the existing Government of India Act which is based on the Montague Chelmsford Scheme. They cannot be called anti-deluvian.

Another topic which he represented was the construction of a Legislative Council Chamber. Sir, this is a matter which has been engaging the attention of Government for the past few years. In a way, I am glad that we have not yet constructed a hall. Because if we had done so a few years ago, we would have had to think of reconstructing another to accommodate the present enlarged Chambers of the Legislature. However, the matter is engaging the earnest attention of Government. They too realise that the construction of a Council Chamber is really very necessary.

We have all realised the difficulty which was felt in making seating arrangements for the first joint session of the Assembly and the Council; and as such it is certainly necessary that we should have a Chamber large enough for our needs. At present, the position is this. Government have before them one or two proposals. One is to make some addition to the Public Offices buildings. That is being investigated. Another suggestion is to select a suitable site somewhere near the Public Offices. That would cost an enormous amount of money even for the acquisition of land. As I said the matter is engaging the earnest attention of the Government, and it is hoped that some decision will be arrived at soon. It will not be very long before we have our desires fulfilled in regard to this matter.

Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi said something about Government observing communal representation in promotions. Sir, the policy of Government in the matter of communal representation has been clearly laid down. It is only in making initial appointments that Government take communal representation into consideration. Promotions are always made on grounds of seniority and efficiency.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: May I ask whether that policy has been followed in the case of some clerks of the Secretariat who were recently sent out on promotion as Magistrates?

MR. K. GEORGE: The appointment of Magistrates from the Secretariat is somewhat different from promotions as they are ordinarily understood. In a way, the appointment of Magistrates may be considered to be initial recruitment; for, there is not much of direct relationship between clerical work in the Secretariat and the work of the Magistrate. In fact, I know that, in some States, Magistrates are recruited direct by competitive examinations and nominations. Further, selections are made from various departments; and, between the staff of these departments, it is impracticable to have a seniority list.

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MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Is seniority determined by length of service or by the time of entry into service?

MR. K. GEORGE; That is a general question. In a particular cadre of appointment the person who was appointed earlier is considered to be senior to the person appointed later.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: In the same cadre, if one man is appointed in 1100, for instance, to act for two months, and another is appointed in 1102 to act for ten months, may I know who will be the senior?

MR. K. GEORGE: Strictly speaking, no acting hand has any claim for the permanent appointment; but Government have been always following a just principle even with regard to the acting hands.

MR M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it not a fact that a junior Munsiff was drafted into the Secretariat as an Assistant Secretary and subsequently promoted as Division Assistant when there were several others senior to him in every way?

MR. K. GEORGE: I was going to speak of the selection appointments under Government. Every State has what may be called selection appointments; and we have also ours. These selection appointments are not necessarily given to the seniors in the particular departments concerned. For instance, there are the posts of heads of some of the departments. In several of these cases, Government do not consider it correct policy to appoint the senior man always. Similarly, the posts of Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries to Government are selection appointments.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI; Had the Munsiff, I referred to a while ago, any revenue experience?

MR. K. GEORGE: The Secretariat deals with all the departments in the State. Government do not see any reason why any special importance should be attached to revenue alone.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is it not a fact that, with regard to certain communities, appointments in the Secretariat were given only after 1091?

MR. K. GEORGE: I do not know that, Sir. I have experience of the Secretariat only from 1101.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Is it not a fact that before the time of Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nayar, members of the Ezhava and some other communities were not recruited as clerks of the Secretariat?

MR K. GEORGE: I am not positive about that; I know, as a matter of fact, that there were not in the Secretariat, as many Ezhavas some years back, as there are now.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: In view of the fact that there were no Ezhavas in the Secretariat in the past, is it possible that, if seniority had been followed for the purpose of recruitment to the Magistracy, any Ezhava would have got a chance to become a Magistrate in the near future?

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MR. K. GEORGE: We have Ezhavas in the Secretariat now; we need not concern ourselves with ancient history.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it the numerical strength of or the number of qualified hands in a community that is taken into account for communal representation?

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, this vexed question has been under the consideration of a special committee; and I am in a position to inform the House that the committee has finished its work. We have received a summary of its recommendations though the full report has not yet been signed. I believe all these questions connected with communal representation would have been dealt with in the report of that committee. I hope this perennial question will be set at rest ere long.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: May I know whether the special selection appointments, the member referred to, are mainly made in accordance with the principle of communal representation?

MR. K. GEORGE: Not necessarily.

MR. K. N. KESAVAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Jenmies*): Will the member be pleased to state whether, in the Secretariat, the Namputiri community is adequately represented?

MR. K. GEORGE: I am not able to understand what the member means by "adequate" representation?

MR. K. N. KESAVAN NAMPUTIRIPAD: May I know the number of Namputiries in the Secretariat?

MR. K. GEORGE: I am not in a position to say that now. I know that, some time back, I appointed a Namputiri as clerk.

MR. K. N. KESAVAN NAMPUTIRIPAD: Perhaps, he is the only Namputiri in the Secretariat?

MR. K. GEORGE: I am not sure.

Passing on to another topic, Sir, Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi referred to various matters all of which I may not be able to deal with in detail at the moment. He referred to the necessity to repeal the Newspapers Regulation.

Sir, the Newspapers Regulation has been on the Statute Book for some years; and, except as a matter of mere sentiment, I do not see what difficulty has been experienced by the newspapers here on account of its existence.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Is it not a slur on the intelligence of the Travancorean?

MR. K. GEORGE: I do not think it is; it all depends on the point of view. There are many other advanced countries in the world where there are regulations to control newspapers.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Did not the Government cancel the licenses of certain newspapers here?

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MR. K. GEORGE: In the course of seven years, we have cancelled the licenses of three newspapers, and that, for very very adequate reasons. On the whole, Sir, I can assure the House that the powers under the Newspapers Regulation are exercised with very great moderation and forbearance.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: In that case, may I ask what objection there is to repeal the Regulation?

MR. K. GEORGE: The fact that the Government do not exercise the powers does not show that the powers to control the newspapers, will not be necessary at any time.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: Is there not a Newspapers Regulation in Mysore?

MR. K. GEORGE: Mysore has a very much more drastic Regulation; and, in British India also, there are enactments for the control of newspapers.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: Are we not far more advanced in education than Mysore?

MR. K. GEORGE. Such comparisons are of no use. Mysore is as much advanced as we are.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Are not the people in Mysore agitating for the repeal of the Newspapers Regulation there?

MR. K. GEORGE: They may be.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: Has it not been suggested recently in the Cochin Legislative Council that a legislation should be enacted to control the Press?

MR. K. GEORGE: Yes, I read about that.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: മൈസൂരിൽ ഉള്ളതുപോലെ എല്ലാം ഇവിടേയും വേണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവിടത്തെപ്പോലെ എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവ് കൌൺസിൽ ഇവിടെയും വേണ്ടതല്ലെ?

MR. K. GEORGE: Then, Sir, Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi suggested that the status of the Secretaries to Government must be raised to that of the Dewan Peishkars. I should be perfectly happy to agree to such a suggestion; but, it is all a question of finance.

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The status can be equalised by reducing the pay of the Dewan Peishkars.

MR. K. GEORGE: That will reduce the status of the Peishkars; that is a proposition which is very unhappy. (*Laughter*)

MR. P. PADMANABHAN TAMPI: The Secretaries to Government in Madras are on a par with the District Collectors.

MR. K. GEORGE: The whole system there is entirely different. In Madras, the Chief Secretary is above the general cadre of the Indian Civil Service. The other Secretaries are officers of the general Civil Service cadre.

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MR. M. GOVINDAN: With the separation of the Devaswoms, the duties and responsibilities of the Peishkars have considerably decreased.

MR. K. GEORGE: I do not agree. What about the several new laws that have been enacted, and the position and powers of the Peishkars under them? Devaswoms did not consume much of their time. In fact, their responsibilities have increased.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to the high cost of administration, and suggested that reduction was possible in various departments. The possibility of reduction was very carefully considered by the Retrenchment Committee. For instance, the abolition of the Devicolam Division was a matter which engaged the attention of the Retrenchment Committee; and, after very careful consideration, they decided that it was not advisable to abolish it.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: Was not the Peermade Division Assistant's post abolished in pursuance of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee?

MR. K. GEORGE: That was done in pursuance of the recommendations of the Legislative Council and not of the Retrenchment Committee.

MR. M. GOVINDAN: And yet the pay of the Division Assistant is being given as an allowance to the present Commissioner?

MR. K. GEORGE: Not so. Only Rs. 100 is allowed out of the pay.

Mr. K. K. Thomas made a reference, Sir, to the difficulty experienced in the matter of getting places of public worship. I can assure him, Sir, that Government are giving very sympathetic consideration to applications for places of worship and it is only in cases where it is not possible at all to give sanction that sanction is not given. The main consideration in that is necessarily the question whether the proximity of a church with, say, a temple or other place of public worship, would cause any serious inconvenience to the different communities, and where Government are convinced that no such inconvenience would be caused there is hardly any occasion for the applications being rejected.

MR. K. K. THOMAS: Is there any rule in British India?

MR. K. GEORGE: I am not sure, I believe the District Magistrates there possess some power for regulating the erection of places of public worship.

MR. KOCHIKAL P. BALAKRISHNAN TAMPI: I beg leave to with draw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I put it that Demand XIII—General Administration excluding Account Office and Legislative Bodies—for Rs. 2,39,509 be passed.

The grant was made.

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